

## Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

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1. HERewith FULL TEXT RICHARD BURT BY-LINER NEW YORK TIMES  
JULY 18 HEADED "NUNN FEARS GENEVA WILL PROVE COSTLY."
2. SENATOR SAM NUNN SAID TODAY THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRA-  
TION MIGHT SOON BE REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE "HUGE EXPENDITURES"  
TO PROTECT AMERICAN MISSILES FROM ATTACK BY THE SOVIET  
UNION BECAUSE NEGOTIATORS HAVE FAILED TO SOLVE THIS POTEN-  
TIAL PROBLEM IN ARMS TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.
3. THE WARNING WAS CONTAINED IN AN ATTACK TODAY ON THE  
ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO STRATEGIC-ARMS LIMITATION  
DELIVERED BY SENATOR NUNN IN A SPEECH AT WARNER ROBINS AIR  
FORCE BASE IN GEORGIA. IN THE ADDRESS, HE ACCUSED THE  
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ADMINISTRATION OF LACKING A COHERENT STRATEGY IN THE  
GENEVA-BASED ARMS TALKS AND ARGUED THAT THIS STATE OF  
AFFAIRS COULD LAY THE "FOUNDATION FOR SOVIET SUPERIORITY"  
EVEN IF THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING AN "EQUIT-  
ABLE AND VERIFIABLE" AGREEMENT WITH MOSCOW.

4. "WE CAN BLAME THE SOVIETS FOR A LOT OF THINGS," HE SAID,

"BUT WE CANNOT BLAME THEM FOR OUR OWN LACK OF A PHILOSOPHY FOR STRATEGIC FORCES AND ARMS CONTROL."

5. SENATOR NUNN, A GEORGIA DEMOCRAT, IS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL SENATORS ON NATIONAL-SECURITY ISSUES. HIS VIEWS ARE LIKELY TO CARRY WEIGHT IN ANY DEBATE ON CAPITOL HILL ON A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD.

6. IN TALKS LAST WEEK IN GENEVA, THE ADMINISTRATION IS SAID TO HAVE INFORMED MOSCOW THAT THE UNITED STATES, TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT ITS LAND-BASED FORCE FROM ATTACK, MUST BE PERMITTED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR SHUTT-LING MISSILES AROUND A SERIES OF EMPTY LAUNCHING SILOS.. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER SOVIET NEGOTIATORS ACCEPTED THIS, AND AIDES TO SENATOR NUNN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SESSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER, ANDREI A. GROMYKO.

7. TODAY, SENATOR NUNN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND WHETHER TO SUPPORT A NEW ACCORD, BUT STRESSED THAT THE ARMS TALKS COULD NOT BE VIEWED APART FROM WHAT HE CALLED THE "GENERAL DETERIORATION" IN THE SOVIET-AMERICAN MILITARY BALANCE IN RECENT YEARS.  
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8. "AIDED BY A STRATEGIC-FORCE BUDGET TWICE AS LARGE AS OURS," HE SAID, "THE SOVIETS HAVE INTRODUCED NO FEWER THAN EIGHT NEW STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILES, COMPARED TO ONLY TWO FOR THE UNITED STATES DURING THE SAME PERIOD. ALSO DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE SOVIETS HAVE EXPANDED AND MODERNIZED THEIR GROUND FORCES, TRANSFORMED THEIR NAVY FROM A COASTAL DEFENSE FORCE INTO AN OFFENSIVE FLEET AND REBUILT WHAT WAS ONCE A LIMITED TACTICAL AIR FORCE INTO A POWERFUL, AGGRESSIVE AIR ARMADA."

9. HE ASSERTED THAT THE FIRST ARMS ACCORD WITH MOSCOW, SIGNED IN 1972, WAS NEGOTIATED DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH THERE WAS AN AVERSION IN CONGRESS AND AMONG THE PUBLIC "TO ALL THINGS MILITARY," BUT THAT THIS MOOD NO LONGER PREVAILED. "I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CONGRESS TODAY WOULD SUPPORT ANY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, ASSUMING THE CASE IS MADE ON ITS MERITS," HE SAID.

10. BUT HE ACCUSED THE ADMINISTRATION OF ALLOWING THE ARMS-LIMITATION TALKS TO SHAPE AMERICAN DEFENSE POLICY AND

ARGUED THAT THE UNITED STATES, BEFORE SITTING DOWN TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, SHOULD FIRST DETERMINE WHAT ITS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS WERE. "I HAVE SLOWLY AND SADLY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT, FOR THE SOVIETS, THEIR STRATEGIC PROGRAMS DRIVE THEIR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE FOR THE UNITED STATES, OUR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS DRIVE OUR STRATEGIC PROGRAMS."

11. AS A CASE IN POINT, HE SAID THAT A PRIMARY GOAL OF THE TALKS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO PREVENT AMERICAN LAND-BASED MINUTEMAN MISSILES FROM BECOMING VULNERABLE TO A POSSIBLE SOVIET FIRST STRIKE IN THE 1980'S. BUT HE SAID THAT THIS GOAL HAD "EVAPORATED" AND THAT "EVERYONE NOW AGREES THAT ENHANCED SURVIVABILITY OF OUR MINUTEMAN FORCE WILL NOT BE UNCLASSIFIED

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OBTAINED IN A NEW AGREEMENT."

12. IN A NEW REPORT ON THE ARMS TALKS RELEASED THIS WEEK, THE ADMINISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT "BOTH AMERICAN AND SOVIET LAND-BASED FORCES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE TO ATTACK." HOWEVER, THE 58-PAGE REPORT, THE MOST EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS RELEASED SO FAR, ASSERTS THAT "THIS SITUATION WOULD DEVELOP WITH OR WITHOUT ARMS LIMITATIONS." END TEXT CHRISTOPHER

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